

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An engine-drive-regulation supporting apparatus mounted on a hybrid-drive vehicle which can be driven by an engine and an electric generator/motor, the apparatus comprising:

engine-drive-regulated region detecting means including at least one of means for judging whether ~~or not~~ the position of the hybrid-drive vehicle is in a prescribed engine-drive-regulated region on the basis of information received from a vehicle position detecting device provided on the hybrid-drive vehicle or from an external source with respect to the hybrid-drive vehicle, and means for receiving an engine-drive-regulation signal from an external source with respect to the hybrid-drive vehicle; and

engine-drive regulating means for giving a notice to a vehicle driver, suspending the engine, or decelerating the engine to reduce exhaust gas emitted from the hybrid-drive vehicle when it is judged that the position of the hybrid-drive vehicle is in the prescribed engine-drive-regulated region or in response to reception of the engine-drive-regulation signal.

2. (Currently Amended) An engine-drive-regulation supporting apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the engine-drive regulating means includes:

means for judging whether ~~or not~~ the hybrid-drive vehicle is in the prescribed engine-drive-regulated region and the present time is in a prescribed engine-drive-regulated time range; and

means for giving the notice to the vehicle driver, suspending the engine, or decelerating the engine to reduce exhaust gas emitted from the hybrid-drive vehicle when it is judged that the hybrid-drive vehicle is in the prescribed engine-drive-regulated region and the present time is in the prescribed engine-drive-regulated time range.